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of a saunterer among New England's woods and fields. They record the aspects of the changing seasons from March to December with eyes which, in turn, are those of a lover of plants and birds, a poet, and a deeply religious man. For science he cares little, as compared with "the intuition of spirit"; Emerson and Whitman are more to him than Darwin and Wallace. The letters are not full of accurate detail like Thoreau, nor of vivid coloring like Bolles; the style is often too involved and the thought too mystical to suggest comparison with Burroughs; but coming as they did from week to week, they must have been very welcome to many who could not share the author's rambles; they breathe the calmness, the toleration, the kindly sympathy of a true lover of out-door nature.

ZOÖLOGY.

Influence of Man on the Distribution of Reptiles and Mammals in Patagonia and Fuegia.—In a very complimentary review¹ of my recently published *Narrative of the Princeton Patagonia Expeditions*, Mr. Barnum Brown, who, as a representative of the American Museum of Natural History in New York accompanied me on my last expedition to that country remarks that my "observations on lizards should have been confined to that part of Patagonia north of the Rio Santa Cruz, for this river forms the natural southern boundary line for lizards as well as armadillos though a few have been scattered south of it by man." I have taken these small reptiles at Fitzroy's Springs on the north shore of the Gallegos river, at various points along the coast between Cape Fairweather and Coy Inlet, about the Salt lagoons at the estancia of Montes and Fernandez ten miles from Gallegos, at the Mount of Observation and at Greenwood's estancia sixty miles south of Santa Cruz and have observed them at many other favorable localities in the region south of the Santa Cruz River, while other travellers have reported them as being common not only in this region but on the *plains* of Fuegia as well. See Popper's account of Fuegia in Mulhall's *Hand-Book of the River Plate*. I see no good reason for attributing the present wide distribution of these lizards over the region south of the Santa Cruz River to the agency of man.

¹*Amer. Nat.*, Nov. 1903, pp. 799-800.

Mr. Brown's remark that the presence of the guanaco in Fuegia while the deer, rhea and puma are absent from that island is attributable to the agency of man rather than to the superior powers of self-distribution possessed by the guanaco, may be correct, but the latter hypothesis seems to me the more reasonable one. If the presence of the guanaco in Fuegia is due to the agency of man, why is the rhea absent from that island? It is found quite as often in captivity among the Indians, could have been just as readily transported and is more prolific than the guanaco. The readiness with which the guanaco takes to water is well known in Patagonia as are also its powers of swimming and to these characters is due I believe its presence in Fuegia. The absence of the deer in Fuegia which, as is well known, is also a ready swimmer is I think due to the fact that it is a forest and mountain species and does not advance on the plains as far as the "narrows" of the Magellan Straits. Farther west the channels between Fuegia and the mainland are too wide to be successfully crossed by either the deer or guanaco.

J. B. HATCHER.

The Rat-tailed Rotifers.¹ — Jennings has published a most interesting and valuable monograph of the Rattulid Rotifers, which although a part of a series entitled "Rotatoria of the United States," actually includes the species of the whole world. In fact, one new species described (*Diurella dixon-nuttalli*) has never yet been found in America but only in England. The species are divided into two genera; *Diurella* in which the two caudal appendages or toes are equal or the shorter is more than a third the length of the longer, and *Rattulus*, in which these organs are more unequal, one being often quite rudimentary. The author states that these are not natural genera, but are justified by considerations of convenience. He remarks that the idea that all the species of a genus must be more related to each other than to any outside species has been largely given up in practice; but this might be admitted and yet it might remain true that the generic characters had not been acquired independently. If the more primitive *Diurella* type has given rise separately to two or more groups of species now included in *Rattulus*, it will be necessary to either divide *Rattulus* into as many genera, or unite *Diurella* and *Rattulus* under the latter (older) name. Of

¹ Jennings, H. S. A Monograph of the Rattulidæ. *Bulletin U. S. Fish Commission* for 1902 (1903). pp. 273-352. Pls. I-XV.